

Iran

## CONFIDENTIAL

State Morning Summary  
BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS: AUGUST 6, 1980

1. IRAN: PREOCCUPATIONS OF MAJLIS LEADERS MAY LEAD TO HOSTAGE TRIALS

The preoccupation of the Majlis leadership with building the "New Iran" and the internal struggle for power suggests that the hostage issue will not come up soon. The decision to postpone discussion of the Congressional letter thus is only a pretext to avoid facing the matter of the hostages. In this atmosphere, the furor over the detention of the Iranians arrested in Washington probably has increased the likelihood that some of the hostages eventually will be put on trial as the only "face-saving" solution the Iranians can find to the hostage crisis.

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The Majlis leadership, e.g., Ayatollahs Beheshti and Rafsanjani, are committed to make every effort to delay debate on the hostage issue. Instead of focusing their attention in the coming weeks on the hostages, they will be preoccupied with:

- reducing Bani-Sadr to a figurehead;
- establishing the new government; and
- implementing the cultural revolution.

Khomeini's apparent refusal to provide any concrete guidance on the issue also encourages the attitude of "doing nothing."

Rafsanjani justified this policy of inaction in a speech in the Majlis on August 4. He said:

- The US has no interest in solving the hostage crisis.
- It is using the crisis as a pretext to further its plans of "criminal domination and opposition to the Revolution."
- It is willing to sacrifice the hostages.

He thus implied that the US was responsible for the continuing problem and that the US must be more forthcoming. However, it is doubtful that the US could ever be forthcoming enough to satisfy the Iranian demands.

State Department review completed